



EASY TIME OF YEAR TO 'EAT LOCAL'

"It's a great year for corn," says Bruce Howden, who has 32 acres planted with sweet corn at his farm on Rannapo Rd. His corn should be available until the first frost—if it doesn't sell out before then.

Howden Farm sells corn at the farm and at the Sheffield Farmers' Market. The farm also supplies LaBonne's supermarkets in Connecticut, the Berkshire Co-op in Great Barrington, and farmstands in Millerton and Lenox.

The farm also has 35 or 40 acres planted in pumpkins, including the Howden Biggie, a variety developed by Bruce's father. "If they're starting to show color, we'll start to pick around Sept. 15," says Bruce.

Howden Farm is just one of the many places to buy food grown in Sheffield and the region. The Corn Crib has been a long-time Sheffield tradition for



Corn, squash and tomatoes for sale at the farmstand at Howden Farm on Rannapo Rd.

more than 30 years, selling corn and pumpkins grown in fields just south of its stand on Route 7, along with other produce grown locally. Boardmans have been selling corn and vegetables in a

cheerful yellow stand off Hewins St. for the last four decades, and Noah Parsons sells a few vegetables from a stand on Route 7 in the Sheffield Plain.

The Farmers' Market of Sheffield offers plenty of locally grown meat, fruit and vegetables, along with local cheeses and baked goods. Equinox Farm mesclun lettuce and arugula, grown on Bow Wow Rd., are sold there, as are items from Moon on the Pond Farm on Barnum St. and the new Wolfe Springs Farm on Hewins St. (For more on that farm's first season, see the article on page 3.)

The Farmers Market is held every Friday from 3:30 to 6:30 in the Old Parish parking lot in the center of Sheffield. It continues through Columbus Day weekend.

Feel like eating out? The Stagecoach Tavern on Route 41 gets locally grown

UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL BUDGET AND THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

In the last issue, we reported at length on the "battle of the budget" between Sheffield and the other four towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Currently, as required by the state Dept. of Education, the five towns are making monthly payments to the district in a total amount equal to one-twelfth of the annual budget for the current fiscal year as originally proposed by the School Committee. Each town's share of the operating budget is determined not on the basis of the "alternative method" stipulated by the regional

agreement but by the "statutory method"—the one favored by Sheffield that's projected to save the town about \$300,000. Sheffield's voters approved the use of the statutory method at the annual town meeting in May.

Following up on a suggestion made by the Dept. of Education, Monterey, New Marlborough and Egremont, the towns that are required to pay more under the statutory method, applied to the state for what are known as "pothole money" grants as partial reimbursement. Shef-

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of Sheffield and Ashley Falls

Bear in the backyard

The summer seems to have brought an increase in black bear sightings in Sheffield. Many residents whose homes are near wooded areas have seen bears in their yards, driveways and near their decks. This young bear was



photographed in my backyard on Salisbury Rd. in early July at 10am. Sadly, it's evidence that taking in bird feeders at night is not enough to avoid attracting bears. Nor does hanging feeders high on trees or ropes avoid the problem since bears are great climbers.

It is unfortunate for those of us who loved seeing birds at our feeders that this pleasure has to go. Current estimates are that there are 3,800 black bears in western Massachusetts. Bird feeders represent an easily available supply of food and can become an irresistible attraction. Bears then learn to associate people with food, which eventually leads bears to have more frequent contact with people, with potentially bad results. —Judith Schumer

THANK YOU!

to all whose contributions help keep the Sheffield Times going.
Names of those who recently donated will be listed in the next issue.

Photo credits: Andrea Scott, pages 1, 3. Gary Schumer, page 2. Pauline Clarke, page 4. Ellen Rowntree, pages 7, 16. Richard Chernerff, page 11. Dana Cummings, page 13.

produce delivered every week. "It's not just that it's local," says innkeeper and co-owner Allegra Graham. "It's super, super fresh, just picked." Farms supplying the Stagecoach Tavern include Equinox Farm, Farm Girl Farm and Indian Line Farm in Egremont and Taft Farm in Great Barrington.

Another restaurant serving local food is the Route 7 Grill, just north of the Sheffield line in Great Barrington. Formerly the Pepper Mill, the restaurant has been completely redone. Soon after he opened, Lester Blumenthal discovered the bounty produced by Moon on the Pond Farm and the benefits of serving locally grown food, from salad greens to pigs for roasting. For more on the Route 7 Grill, see page 5.



The fields and greenhouses of Equinox Farm on Bow Wow Rd.

GOOD START FOR NEW FARM ON HEWINS ST.

At the close of summer, the tidings from Wolfe Springs Farm on Hewins St. are full of success, optimism and contentment—contentment not borne of doing everything that had to be done, but of having good weather and exceeding the expectations set for the first season.

The 50-some-acre property along the Housatonic River, formerly known as Cold Spring Farm, had been in the Griffith family for generations. Jim and June Wolfe, who had previously farmed in Ashley Falls, purchased it last September with the help of the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction program and the Sheffield Land Trust.

The Wolfes began life on their new farm in a small camper, where they were without amenities such as a cooking stove and a shower. Following a successful yurt raising, the Wolfes created a cozy living space within its canvas walls that included a full bathroom, gas-powered stove, and a sofa and three chairs. Traditionally, a yurt is a portable felt dwelling used by nomads in the plains of Central Asia, but this one was shipped from Pacific Yurts Inc. in Oregon. Ten months after its purchase, the Wolfes still live there with their two children, Kristen and Seamus, and three dogs. However, the surrounding 52 acres look drastically different.

The field is now dotted with bird coops. The pasture is enclosed by flexible electric horse fence. The hay field has been cut and will soon be ready

for a second cutting. Pieces of farm equipment, including two John Deere tractors, are parked on the scene. And a half-finished three-bedroom house now stands proudly next to the yurt.

Both Jim and June happily confirm that their expectations for house and home have been exceeded. The soil proved significantly more fertile than predicted, and only compost and small amounts of slow-release organic fertilizer had to be mixed in. June describes the growing season as "an ideal balance of rain and sun" that resulted in minimal problems in the gardens.

Growing there are the entire spectrum of northeast veggies: lettuce, peas, beans, tomatoes, carrots, cucumber, zucchini, squash, corn, more. There's also a northeast rarity that the Wolfes are trying for the first time this year: peanuts, which are mainly grown in the southern U.S. It's too early to tell how they will turn out because peanuts grow underground and require at least five months of warm weather. But so far so good.

Amid the various garden plots live the four horses (there's one for each member of the family to ride) and 40 egg-laying Bardrock and Golden Comet hens. The multitude of other livestock—sheep, pigs, chickens, geese, ducks and turkeys—will be sent to slaughter sometime between August and late November. The meat will sustain not only the Wolfe family this season, but also their friends and ex-

tended family.

After taking a one-season break from the Farmer's Market of Sheffield last year, the Wolfes returned this summer to sell vegetables, herbs and eggs. June is happy to report a "steady stream of customers" at the market, which runs from 3:30pm to 6:30pm in the center of Sheffield on Fridays. Best-sellers are eggs and corn, she reports. The Wolfes also have a stand at the Nutrition Center in Great Barrington on Wednesdays between 4pm and 7pm.

This is just the beginning of the Wolfes' dreams of a successful Berkshire farm. Near the winter solstice, they will move out of the yurt and into their permanent homestead. They are excited to expand their living quarters, but at the same time know that their new house will lack the closeness the yurt fosters. "The yurt is so un-sound-proof you can hear the snowfall," says Jim. The yurt will not be torn down; it will stand connected to the new two-story addition.

The accomplishments on Wolfe Springs Farm are a result of hard work and dedication by Jim, June, Seamus, Kristen and Jim's older son, Jeremy. But help from friends and neighbors has sometimes proved just as important in finding and fixing equipment and in this spring's plowing and harrowing. From this collective effort has been born a successful, diverse, sustainable living environment at 946 Hewins St.

—Amelia Wolfe

PROFILE: INEZ FLINN, NOT SITTING AROUND

She spent 25 years all told working for the phone company, raised a daughter, worked at the F-2 restaurant (now Limey's), spent seven years as a clerk in the Ashley Falls Post Office, was secretary for a heating and plumbing business, worked 15 years for the Weight Watchers organization, and was a docent at the Colonel Ashley House before she retired 10 years ago.

"After being so busy, how can I just sit around now?" asks petite and soft-spoken Inez Flinn.

Sit around? Inez? When friends celebrated her 80th birthday a few years ago, one woman gave her a scarf with the word "Yes" embroidered in small letters on one end and "No" embroidered on the other. But Inez doesn't say no very often. "I like what I do, so it's hard to say no," she admits.

Inez has been in the area for well over 60 years. Her family moved from Connecticut to Ashley Falls in 1939, though she stayed behind with an aunt and uncle to finish high school. When she rejoined her family in Ashley Falls after graduation, her first job was with the telephone company. After a break to marry and raise her daughter, she returned, retiring from the Pittsfield office in 1978. She has three grandchildren and two great grandchildren, most of whom live far enough away to make travel a necessity.

And what has Inez said yes to since she retired? Volunteering, of course—at the Bushnell-Sage Library, where she barcodes and covers books, at the Historical Society, where she works at the Stone Store and compiles mailing lists, at Bartholomew's Cobble, where she staffs the office, and for the Knitting Club held at the Episcopal Church, where she knits prayer shawls. She also does the mailing for the *Sheffield Times*.

Prayer shawls? Inez fetches a length of soft, pale blue knitting and wraps it around her shoulders. "We make these for people who want or need comfort in times of transition. A shawl is such a comforting thing," she says. "We meet at the Episcopal Church to knit them, but it's really a non-denominational activity. Before it's donated, each shawl is blessed by one church or another. We make them with intention and prayer."

The group is part of a prayer shawl ministry started in 1998 by Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the

1997 Women's Leadership Institute at the Hartford Seminary in Hartford, CT. Combining their compassion and their love of knitting or crocheting into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice, they strive to reach out to those in need of comfort as well as in celebration. (Another group in Sheffield, based at Old Parish Church, is also knitting shawls, for similar reasons.)

"We meet on the first Wednesday and the third Saturday of every month to knit," Inez explains. "Then we work at home on whatever we've begun. We are always looking for places and people to donate to and we'd love to have more people join our group."

Inez is always so busy helping others that some of her friends thought she ought to do something just for fun. They encouraged her to join the Red Hat Society, a group of local women who get together every month for a good time. "There are 23 of us at the moment," she says, adding that the only rules of the organization are that members who are over 50 and wear a red hat and a purple shirt or dress when they go out as a group. (Members under 50 wear pink hats and lavender shirts.)

Inez's group is part of a national women's movement based on Jenny Joseph's poem "Warning" and organized specifically for the purpose of gathering women together to enjoy themselves. The word "organization" is translated as loosely as possible—in fact, the parent group refers to the Red Hats as a "dis-organization" using "un-strident means" of achieving their goal, which is to gain higher visibility for women in the over-50 age group and to reshape the way such women are perceived by today's culture.

There are no by-laws, no formal rules, no pressure to attend every gathering, nor are there any officers, though there is a "queen" who presides over the every-three-month meeting where members decide on which activities they will enjoy next. Inez chuckles. "We gave our queen a crown but she doesn't always wear it."

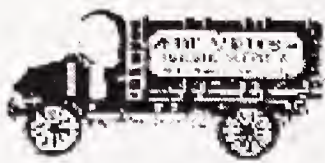
Asked what's next for a person who simply can't sit still, Inez says, "Well, since I would rather milk cows than do housework, I guess I'll just keep busy somewhere. I'd like to travel to Missouri to see my great grandchild." She gives a little shrug. "If I just sat home, I'd waste away." Listening to the list of her activities, there doesn't seem to be much danger of that.

—Pauline Clarke



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LOCAL FOOD REIGNS AT ROUTE 7 GRILL

One restaurant serving Sheffield-grown food lies just north of the Sheffield line in Great Barrington. The Route 7 Grill is in its second summer serving down-home American food, as locally grown as possible.

The owner, Lester Blumenthal, is the "part-time everything," overseeing this unique dining facility. His approach toward food was recently featured in a Boston Globe article.

Lester discovered great locally grown food at Moon on the Pond Farm, inspiring him to seek further sources of local foods. His restaurant serves mesclun salad greens from Equinox Farm in Sheffield; squash, peppers, cucumbers and more from Farm Girl Farm in North Egremont; beef from Herondale Organic Farm in Ancramdale, NY; romaine lettuce, onions, carrots, celery, and even strawberries from Taft Farms in Great Barrington; and Berkshire Blue cheese, also from Great Barrington.

Also featured in the Globe article was Sheffield farmer Dom Palumbo, who started Moon on the Pond Farm 16 years ago. The farm grows organic vegetables, many of them heirloom varieties, and an exotic assortment of livestock. As the article noted, Dom "started with a few sheep, then bought chickens and pigs. After a few years he traded conventional livestock for historic breeds such as speckled Sussex laying hens, Khaki Campbell ducks, Horned Dorset sheep, and Normandy and Highland Cows." Dom also sells his farm's wares at the Farmers' Market of Sheffield.

The Route 7 Grill is a complete renovation of the former Pepper Mill, with an attractive horseshoe-shaped bar and spacious, open dining area. In addition to his usual fare, on special Fridays during the summer, about once a month, Lester offers a special outdoor pig roast under a new tent. The pigs, from Twin Oaks Farm in Alford, are cooked over

Route 7 Grill

999 Main St., Great Barrington, 528-3235, just north of the Sheffield border, route7grill.com

Moon on the Pond Farm

816 Barnum Street, Sheffield, MA 01257, 229-3092.

an enormous, elevated roasting pit. For a set price, you get pork with barbecue sauce, fresh grown corn, home-made coleslaw, traditional Boston baked beans, mesclun salad and cornbread, with watermelon and home-baked cookies for dessert. There's a \$5 discount for reservations because they let him anticipate quantities. There's music, too. On Aug. 3, for instance, Sky Smeed, local rock-n-roller, mesmerized the crowd with his great tunes.

Lester says this is not about making a lot of money—there are easier ways to provide food profitably. The taste of real food and the satisfaction of providing this pleasure to others is the driving force behind his endeavors. His restaurant is the epitome of the motto, "Buy locally, eat locally." —Sharon Gregory



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TO SHEFFIELD VIA FRANCE, IRELAND AND NEW YORK

An occasional series on how people came to Sheffield

Francois and Helen Bizalion live in a small late 18th-century farmhouse on two acres in Sheffield. Behind the house is a hill called "Little Johnny Mountain," a hill similar to the one behind Francois' family home in Provence, and therefore very special to him.

Francois and Helen came to the southern Berkshires four years ago. They now have two daughters, Isabelle, age 4, and Anouk, age 2½. Francois says, "Living here has been fulfilling for all of us. We keep realizing how remarkable this area is—the people, the environment, the culture." He says, "Many of our friends, really dear friends, first came as customers to our shop." They wish they had made this life change sooner.

The Bizalions are the owners of Bizalion's Fine Food, located at 684 Main St. just north of the Big Y shopping center in Great Barrington. The

shop is a French epicerie (specialized grocery and delicatessen) filled with fine cheeses, pastas, meats, olive oils, figs and other fresh, bottled and canned specialties. Open from 8-5:30 weekdays, 9:30 to 6 on Saturdays and 9-4 on Sundays, customers are invited to relax at the farmhouse style communal table inside or the small tables just outside the store. Throughout the day, locals, weekenders and visitors from across the country and abroad can be seen reading the paper and sipping coffee or enjoying European-style sandwiches and salads with a glass of wine or beer or a cup of home-brewed tea. With advance notice, the epicerie can be reserved in the evening for an informal French country dinner, personally served by Francois and Helen. The French ambience is enhanced by their French dress and language, the romantic lighting and the

French background music.

Bizalion's Fine Food has been written up in numerous papers including the *Berkshire Eagle and Record*, *Berkshire Living*, the *Advocate*, the *Boston Globe* and the *New York Times*. It was featured on the Food Network in 2004 and repeated showings of that segment have continued to bring visitors from afar who come to the Berkshires already knowing about the store.

How did this special "piece of southern France" come to be located in the southern Berkshires?

Francois grew up in Provence, near the city of Arles, an area he says is much like the Berkshires, with an unspoiled countryside dotted with farms, a similar topography, a comparable mixture of natives and second-home owners, and rich cultural offerings. The youngest of five children, he attended local pub-



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lic schools and then a boarding Jesuit school in Avignon. He studied history at the University of Aix-en-Provence and then transferred to the Sorbonne in Paris where he graduated with a degree in history. A summer internship at the daily national newspaper *Le Matin* led to an opportunity to go to New York City as a freelance reporter in 1984.

Attracted by the diversity and excitement of New York, Francois lived there for 18 years. He began as a freelance reporter for *Le Matin*, the weeklies *L'Express* and *Le Pelerin*, and the French Sunday paper *Le Journal du Dimanche*. For these and other periodicals, he wrote articles on news, business, society, cultural events, restaurants, fashion and French personalities in the US. In 1988 he became a fashion editor for the magazine *Gentleman's Quarterly* and from 1990 to 1995 he was a fashion editor for the *New York Times*. He describes his interest in fashion as part of a larger interest in design, in architecture, landscape, furniture, fabrics and food.

From 1995 to 2002 Francois further developed his interest in fashion at the sportswear company Nautica, where, as a creative director, he worked in fashion design, graphic design, fabric purchasing, advertising and marketing, directing a staff and producing fashion shows. It was at Nautica that he met and married Helen, who had come to the US from Ireland. Helen worked in creative services, setting up showrooms and also working on the fashion shows.

In 2002, during a sabbatical in

France, Italy and Ireland, Francois and Helen began to explore the idea of a major life change. Unable to decide between France and Ireland, they returned to the US. Both love food so, drawing on their food experiences in France, they looked into opening a restaurant in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. This proved to be financially prohibitive, and they realized that a night business would be difficult to combine with family life. They began to consider other options.

Because Francois had spent weekends and vacations in the 1990s at a farmhouse he owned in the Northampton area, he knew the Berkshires. Encouraged by a friend to explore Great Barrington as a potential market, in 2003 he and Helen took a 10-day trip to look at communities, schools, houses, supply sources and possible store locations. By October of that year, they had rented a house in Mill River and opened their Great Barrington French epicerie. Two years later, when the house in Sheffield became available, they quickly bought it. The family enjoys finding old bottles and unusual agricultural pieces when digging in the soil.

Francois and Helen are happy living in Sheffield. They appreciate the beauty

of the area, the smallness of the town, the number of full-time residents, the good public schools, and the existence of an active land trust working to protect the rural character of the town.

As for the future, Francois and Helen plan to continue doing what has been so successful. In addition to their epicerie, they participate in farmers markets in both Sheffield and Great Barrington, and they also have a catering business. Francois says, "The appreciation from the public is very rewarding and makes up for the lack of a high income." They feel they have found "the right balance in life."

And they are giving the southern Berkshires something special: an authentic experience of southern France.

—Ellen Rowntree



Francois at the Farmers Market and Helen in the shop

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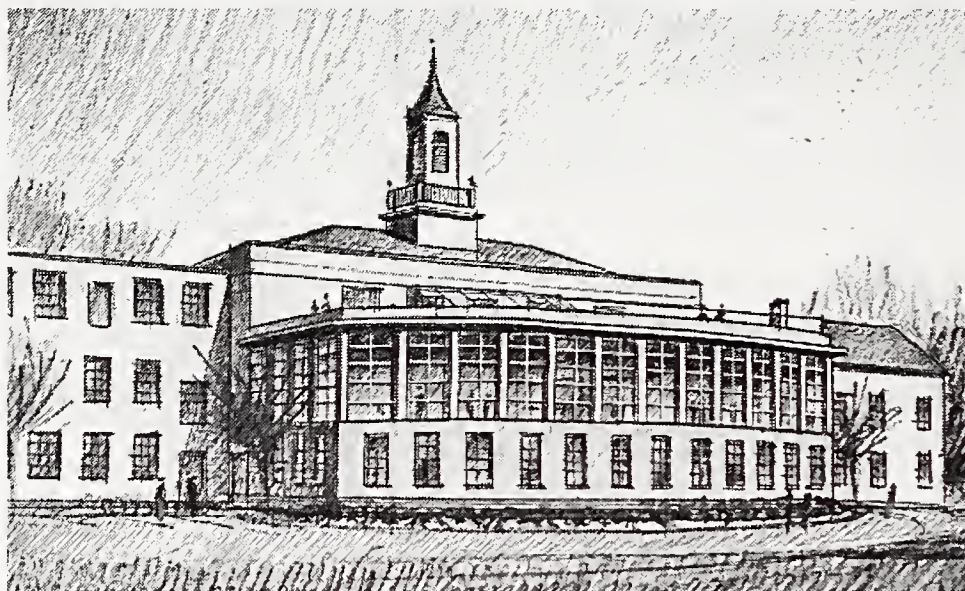
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BERKSHIRE SCHOOL NEWS *Bulldozers not dozing at Berkshire School*

As Berkshire School prepares to celebrate its 100th birthday throughout the 2007-08 school year, three major construction projects are taking place, one of them honoring a longtime Sheffield resident.

Berkshire Hall. The school's main academic building and the crown jewel of the campus, Berkshire Hall has been gutted and will be thoroughly restored and renovated by summer of 2008. An addition is being built onto the rear of the 70-year-old building that will feature offices for the Head of School and other administrators on the first floor and classrooms on the second. The Berkshire Hall Theater will be replaced by a "great room" used for student study and various school functions. The room will lead out onto a terrace on the third floor of the addition. The exterior will receive a new roofing system and thermo-pane windows as well as the replacement of the stucco. The building will be watertight by late November so interior work can take place during the winter months. Meanwhile, 22,000 square feet of modular classrooms have been installed on the former tennis courts in back of the athletic center to accommodate students taking humanities and math courses for the one year Berkshire Hall is being renovated.

Multi-purpose athletic center. The new center's concrete walls have been formed and poured, with the steel erection to begin in mid-September. Roofing will begin in mid-October so that the building



An artist's rendering of the new addition to Berkshire Hall. Below, renderings of Young Field, left, and the athletic facility.

can be enclosed for work to progress on the interior during the winter months. The access road running along the eastern edge of Stewart Pitch will pass in front of the new athletic facility and connect to the access road to the Kellogg Center. Parking lots will be installed on the west and north sides of the facility, with dedicated bus parking on the east side.

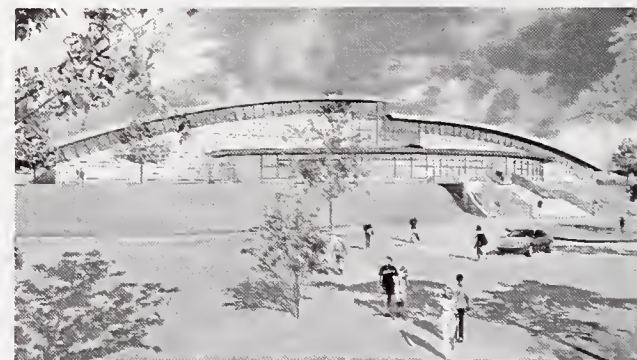
Young Field. The Thomas Young Field, honoring longtime Berkshire School baseball coach and teacher Tom Young,

will feature dugouts, new drainage and irrigation systems, a new scoreboard and bleachers and natural grass. The field will be ready for opening day next spring. Meanwhile, the mezzanine in the school's library will be dedicated to Young's wife, Susan Young, director of the school's library for many years.

Between the new athletic center and Young Field is Stewart Pitch, which has been used as a soil storage area and which will be available for soccer in the fall of 2008.

Check the next issue of the *Sheffield Times* for plans for the school's centennial celebration.

—James Harris



MT. EVERETT STUDENTS COMPLETE STATE POLICE TRAINING

Christopher Bangs and Tyler Ferrusi of Ashley Falls and Mitch Moulton of Sheffield recently completed a one-week student trooper training program at the Massachusetts State Police Academy in New Braintree. Chris, Tyler and Mitch joined other students ages 15 to 17 years from all over Massachusetts for the training, which was limited to 160 participants.

The program, sponsored by the American Legion in cooperation with the Massachusetts State Police, allows young people from diverse communities and cultural backgrounds to see for themselves the standards and training used in law enforcement today and better understand why police officers take certain actions.

The Kiwanis Club of Sheffield and the Sheffield Ameri-

can Legion Post-340 provided scholarships for the three Sheffield students.

Chris, Tyler and Mitch participated in a live-in class of 80 students patterned after the State Police recruit training program. Their week was demanding both mentally and physically. Reveille was at 5:30am and "lights out" at 10pm. Classes included motor vehicle law, investigative techniques, firearms, special tactics, K-9, mounted unit and air wing, and they covered teen-related issues like driving, drugs and alcohol use. The program gave Chris, Tyler and Mitch an opportunity to evaluate law enforcement first hand as a possible career choice.

—Bruce Philbrick, Commander
Sheffield American Legion Post-340

LET'S HAVE A PARTY: SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION SEPT. 8 & 9

Sheffield in Celebration will once again take place on the first weekend after Labor Day. Most of the events of the seventh annual festival will be on Sat., Sept. 8.

The Sheffield Fair will take place from 3 to 7pm on Saturday. The "green" in the center of town will be closed to traffic and Sheffield will have a street fair.

The fair will feature a wide range of things to do and see. Classic cars will be on display. More than a dozen local crafts-people and community groups will be selling their wares and providing informational displays for those wanting to find out more about what's happening in town. There will be an open house at the Fire House and Old Parish Church will holding a quilt raffle. The Historical Society's Stone Store will be open.

Children will have their own full slate of activities, including hayrides and face painting. The Boy Scouts will set up their climbing wall, and the Glory B Clown Troupe will put on a half-hour show at 4pm.

The food court will provide all sorts of food, including the Kiwanis trailer selling hot dogs and hamburgers. Other fair food, such as fried dough, will be for sale, too. An antique cider press will let families try their hand at making fresh cider.

This year, plans for the new town parking lot will be on view, and at 3:30, the stone carver who's making the commemorative stones will demonstrate his craft.

Accompanying the activities will be live music from four groups. Starting things off will be a pair of local folk musicians, Fran Mandeville and Lisa Sturz. They'll be followed by Todd

Mack, a singer-songwriter, producer and radio host who lives and works in Sheffield. Back by popular demand, Berkshire singer/songwriter Bobby Sweet and friends will perform, and at 5:30, the folk music duo Jim Douglas and Tim Van Egmond, who perform as the group Yankee Notions, return to sing traditional New England folk songs. (Their appearance is made possible through a grant from the Sheffield Cultural Council.)

Kiwanis Steak Roast. Starting at 5:30 and serving till 7:30, the Kiwanis and the Sheffield Hose Company are putting on the annual steak roast at the firehouse. Proceeds will go to the Kiwanis Scholarship fund and the Fire Dept.'s building fund.

Concert at Dewey Hall. The fair's music continues into the night. At 8, the Joint Chiefs, a popular trio from Salisbury, CT, will be in concert at Dewey Hall. Eliot Osborn, Louise Lindenmeyr and George Potts combine strong singing over instrumentation woven primarily with guitar, mandolin, bass and Osborn's footbox (a plywood enclosure with a microphone inside that he plays with his feet). Their material includes their own songs and covers of artists ranging from Louis Jordan to Joni Mitchell to Bruce Springsteen.

The Sheffield in Celebration committee hopes everyone will come and have a good time. The committee would like to thank corporate sponsors Sheffield Pottery and Salisbury Bank & Trust and all the others whose contributions have made the celebration possible. Party on, Sheffield!

Vendor and exhibitor space is still available. Contact Dave Smith at 229-9956.

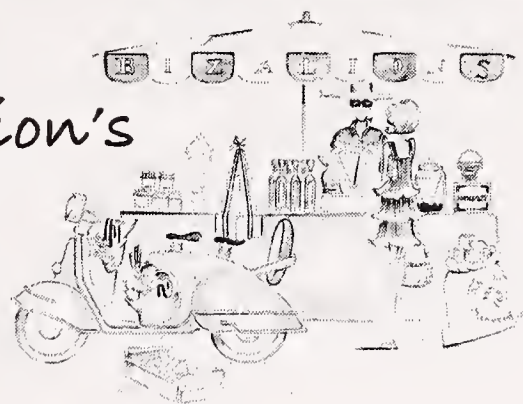


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CHURCH NEWS

Old Parish Church

On September 1, the First Congregational Church (Old Parish Church) will welcome the Rev. Jill Diane Graham as its new pastor. For the past 14 years, Rev. Graham has been serving as the Pastor of the First Congregational Church of North Adams, and prior to that she served the Housatonic Congregational Church for seven years.

Rev. Graham is a native of South County and graduated from Berkshire Christian College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Organized in 1735, Old Parish is the second oldest church in Berkshire County. Rev. Graham will be its 27th minister and the first woman as duly called pastor.

A more extensive interview will appear in the next issue of the *Times*.

Food Assistance Program

The Food Program needs volunteers! We need a substitute driver to pick up donated food in Great Barrington Monday mornings. We receive food from Guido's, Big Y, Great Barrington Bagel and Price Chopper but need to go to the stores to get it. We have two drivers, but they occasionally need to be elsewhere. The commitment might take 1½ hours once a month.

A more pressing need is for packers. This requires committing to showing up on Monday mornings 8:45 to 10:30 for a month in rotation with others. Most volunteers give three or four months a year.

If you are interested and would like to know more, call Marcia Brolli at 229-2624.

As always, the Food Program needs food for those packers to pack. As we head into the fall, fresh vegetables from your garden would be a wonderful addition to what the stores give us. Donations can be delivered to the Old Parish kitchen during the Farmers' Market Friday afternoons, or any other time by calling 229-2624. You can also bring donations of non-perishables to the barrel in Berkshire Bank.

The *Sheffield Times* needs your help. See page 2 for how you can support your community newsletter.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational)

355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442.

Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)

1156 Ashley Falls Rd. 229-2712.

Sunday: 9am Service. Betty LeGeyt, Pastor

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist)

North St. 528-4197

Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

270 State Rd. 528-6378

Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study.

Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

Trinity Lutheran

198 Main St. 528-1330

Sunday: 9am Sunday Worship. Rev. Steve Edmiston

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

Meet at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main St. 528-4850; home (413) 528-3106.

Sunday: 5pm Service. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran

180 Main St. 229-8811

Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Faith Baptist

640 North Main St. 229-0400

Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School; 10:45am Worship Service; 6pm Evening Service; Wednesday: 7pm Bible Study. Barton Keller, Pastor

Old Parish (Congregational)

125 Main St. 229-8173

Sunday: 10am Worship, Sunday School, 10am. Rev. Jill Kiane Graham, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)

Maple Ave. 229-3028

Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass.

Rev. John S. Lis

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)

1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, www.sheffieldchapel.org.

Sunday: 10:45am Morning Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wednesdays: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: In transition

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NORTHEAST ORGANIC DAIRY FARMERS TOUR SHEFFIELD FARM

On a brilliant sunny afternoon, close to 50 organic dairy farmers from as far afield as Maine, Pennsylvania, northern New York and Vermont—and even a delegation from Kazakhstan—were given a tour of Morven Allen's Balsam Hill Farm on Hewins St. The event was a highpoint of the August 17-18 annual meeting of the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance.

One of the alliance's missions is to help independent farmers in their dealings with processors, the large dairies that pasteurize and package milk for distribution. Members of the alliance convene annually to discuss techniques and exchange tips and information on ethical, ecological and sustainable farming practices. This year's meeting, held at Freund's Farm in East Canaan, CT, first featured a field trip to Rick Segalla's 900-acre organic farm on Allyn-dale Road in Canaan. (Segalla also farms in Sheffield.) There were also information sessions on a variety of topics, including one on "How to think like a cow."

Morven Allen, who was raised on an organic dairy farm in England, told the group that he'd started farming in this area some 20 years ago with just a couple

of cows. Four years ago he was able to purchase Balsam Hill Farm's farmhouse and 155 fertile acres along the Housatonic River, thanks to the Chapin family (the original owners) having protected the farm through the Massachusetts' Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program, which had bought the development rights with assistance from community support and fundraising through the Sheffield Land Trust. In order to sustain his herd of close to 250 grass-fed dairy cows, Allen also leases land in Alford, as well as acreage in New York and Connecticut. Aided by his family—Gail and nine-year-old Ian—two full-time and several part-time employees, he farms a total of 1,200 acres within a 12-mile radius.

Allen has always practiced rotational grazing—his cows are moved to a new pasture after every milking. He uses



Morven Allen, fifth from left (in cap), leading a tour of fellow organic dairy farmers at Balsam Hill Farm on Hewins St.

preventative strategies to manage the herd, concentrating on providing a low-stress environment for his animals. Allen received his organic certification last fall after a three-year transition process and started shipping organic milk to Horizon Organic Dairy in December 2006. The visiting farmers all agreed that Allen's hard work has paid off. If you happen to drive by the farm and take a look around, you'll have to admit that his cows are the most contented bovines you will ever encounter. —Hester Velmans



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SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATE *continued from page 1*

field also applied for a pothole grant on a different basis.

Shortly before this issue went to press, the Dept. of Education announced that it had awarded grants to all four towns. Sheffield will receive \$32,000 under a grant program intended to provide assistance to municipalities with high property values and low per-capita income. The other three towns will receive a total of \$177,000: New Marlborough \$84,000, Egremont \$59,000 and Monterey \$34,000. The money was awarded under a program that compensates municipalities in regional school districts for part of increases in assessments that result from changeovers from alternative assessment methods to the statutory method.

"This is terrific news for Sheffield," said Interim Town Administrator Joe Kellogg. He added that Sheffield should be grateful to school business administra-

tor Chris Regan for suggesting that the town should apply for a grant.

It remains to be seen whether the grants will resolve the budgetary problem facing the SBRSD. Under the statutory method, Monterey, New Marlborough and Egremont must contribute some \$300,000 more than under the previous method. The grants cover about 50 percent of the shortfall. These towns have or will shortly put the question of the increased assessments to their voters at special town meetings. If one of the three fails to approve the assessments, it could lead to either a takeover by the Dept. of Education or the reduction of the fiscal year 2008 budget proposed by the School Committee.

In the school newsletter sent out to the town at the end of August, Valerie Spriggs, school superintendent, assured Sheffield residents the school district is "prepared to welcome all students back to

school to achieve excellence." The school year starts on Aug. 29 and tentatively runs through June 19, 2008, depending on weather-related closures.

Complicating the school vote in Egremont is an uproar over the last-minute proposal added to the town warrant for \$500,000 in expenses unrelated to the school. Egremont's special town meeting is set for Aug. 28, after this issue goes to press.

More School Committee changes. Janet Stanton, who had been appointed to the School Committee by the Sheffield Board of Selectmen in May to replace Dek Tillet as one of the four Sheffield representatives on the committee, resigned in July. At its meeting on Aug. 20, the Board of Selectmen reappointed Tillet, who had resigned from the committee in February, to the vacant position. Scott Sanes and Alice Naylor had also indicated to the Selectmen an interest in being appointed. —Peter Rowntree

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SILENT AUCTION COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND

Find bargains and treasures at the eighth annual silent auction at Christ Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran Church on Sat., Oct. 6.

There is no admission charge. Auction hours are set for 10am to 4pm, with pickup after 6pm on Saturday and also on Sunday from 9am to 2pm.

This year, early birds are invited to preview the auction and leave bids beginning at 8am. "House bids," where auction staff execute bids on your behalf, will be accepted up to noon. An autumn lunch, featuring Berkshire-grown foods, will be available from 11am to 2pm.

Items available will include fine collectibles, antiques, silver, glass, china, linens, jewelry, household items, art, food and beverages, small furniture items, sports equipment and tools. Services will include Berkshire activities, lodging, fine dining and more.

Dennis Sears, event chair, predicts this may be the church's best silent auction to date. He noted that one

reason people flock to the event is the careful way goods and services are combined and showcased, with a wide range of items that offers something for everybody. He says that this year won't disappoint as several "generous angels" have contributed major items, with many more donations pledged. Berkshire artists will be again be highlighted. Dennis says there may be a surprise or two before the event and recommends looking for the ads in *The Shopper's Guide* as the event gets closer.

The silent auction is held in the church's parish hall and grounds, corner of Route 7 and Maple Ave. in Sheffield. Parking is available at the church, on the street and Massini's bus lot, just north of Maple Ave.

The silent auction began in 2000 to raise money to pay for the church's parish hall. It was an instant success and became a yearly "must" event. Money raised offsets parish expenses, as well as being used for community outreach programs.

—Rene Wood



Farewell, old friend

The old white signpost at the corner of Bow Wow and Bear's Den roads was taken down earlier this year, replaced with metal signs on poles, one per road and placed perpendicular to the road they name. The white posts made my road seem folksy and part of the bygone days of the Berkshires. Now I am just anywhere, feeling generic.

—Dana Cummings

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RECOMMENDED READING

Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World, by Margaret Macmillan (2001, Random House).

When I first started to read this award-winning volume, fear of being overwhelmed by 569 pages of boring diplomatic history stopped me from getting past page 15. But niggling feelings of guilt at not finishing the book led me to borrow the 18-cassette audio tape version from the Library about a year later. The tapes did the trick. **Paris 1919** is one of an increasing number of books that are better listened to than read—particularly when narrated by a versatile actress like Suzanna Toren.

The book is well-written, fast-paced and surprisingly, given the subject matter, often funny. It tells the story of the peace conference that followed the military defeat of the German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires in the First World War. The principal mission of the victors, led by the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy (known as the "Big Four"), was to do nothing less than establish permanent world peace. After all, the war had

been called "the war to end all war."

To do this, they produced a bundle of treaties, agreements and other arrangements, including creating or confirming the existence of new nations such as Yugoslavia and Iraq and resurrecting old ones, like Poland, which had been split into vassal states ruled by Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia since the 1790s, defined or re-defined national boundaries and establishing the ill-fated League of Nations, predecessor of the United Nations.

As if that were not enough for them to do, the Big Four also aimed to punish the vanquished powers by depriving them of territories and colonies and by collecting reparations that would partly reimburse the victors—particularly France, where most of the destructive fighting had occurred—for the enormous damage caused by the war.

Macmillan recounts how these tasks were shouldered primarily by the idealistic, moralistic and sometimes two-faced President Woodrow Wilson of the United States, the enthusiastic Prime Minister David Lloyd George of Great Britain (author MacMillan's great grandfather), who was not deterred by his sketchy knowledge of geography, Premier Georges (the "Tiger") Clemenceau of France and the excitable and emotional Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando of Italy.

The Big Four also found they had to act as policemen, mediators and a court of last resort during the interim period before the end of hostilities as small and not-so-small wars were fought all over Europe and the Middle East during and after the conference. (Poland engaged in at least 10 different wars with its neighbors during this period.) The collapse of four vast empires—the German, Austro-Hungarian, Russian and Ottoman Empires—created a vacuum that led to anarchic conditions and chaotic fighting as formerly subject peoples competed for power and territory both with each other and against their former masters.

Adding fuel to those fires was Wilson's idealistic guiding principle of "self determination." The basic idea behind this vague and elastic term was that if different peoples could choose their own

governments, all would live together in peace and harmony. As unrealistic as this might be, it was a sound bite that caught the imagination of millions of downtrodden, misgoverned or otherwise ill-situated people who saw it as a clarion call for a better world.

Petitions for the independence of subject peoples flowed in from around the globe. They included one calling for the independence of Vietnam from France submitted by a dishwasher at the Ritz Hotel in Paris named Ho Chi Minh.

Of the Big Four, Great Britain, France and Italy all had agendas other than self-determination. Clemenceau's overriding objective was to weaken Germany so that it would never again pose a threat to France. All three thought that the principle did not apply to the inhabitants of their own overseas colonies and spheres of influence because, they argued cynically, the latter were content the way they were and in any event needed continued "guidance" before they would be ready for self rule. Indeed, they took the opportunity presented by the peace negotiations to strengthen, expand and legitimize their empires.

One of the delights of the book is the author's descriptions of the colorful cast of characters, from the great and the good to outright rogues and charlatans. Clemenceau, whose magnificent walrus mustache is reminiscent of Harry Conklin's, distrusted Germany so much that he reportedly asked to be buried standing up and facing eastward. The bald, squat and ugly Gabriele D'Annunzio, a flamboyant Italian nationalist and ladies man known as "the poet aviator," who seized the mainly Slavic port city of Fiume in the Adriatic (now Rijeka in Croatia) in defiance of his own government. The clever, charming and devious Prime Minister Eleutherios Venizelos, the "greatest Greek statesman since Pericles," whose vision of a greater Greece led him to claim a large piece of Albania, on the grounds that Albanians were really Greeks that had "forgotten" their ancestry—and invade



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Turkey, with disastrous consequences for the large Greek communities in Asia Minor. And his opponent, the remarkable Kemal Ataturk—the “Father of Modern Turkey”—who, much to the surprise of the Big Four, galvanized his war-weary compatriots to take up arms again and throw all foreign powers, including the French, the Greeks and the Italians, out of Constantinople and Asia Minor.

Inevitably, mistakes were made, injustices were ignored or perpetrated and concerns that might have been resolved were neglected or exacerbated. Many of these caused great distress and created more problems for the future. Millions—including Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Slavs, Slovaks, Arabs and Chinese—were dismayed to wake up one morning to find themselves subject to the rule of other, often hostile or otherwise ill-disposed, peoples. New nations were created that perhaps should not have been (Iraq, Yugoslavia) and other possible nations were not created that perhaps should have been (Mesopotamia, Kurdistan).

For these and other reasons, the peacemakers failed miserably in their principal objective of establishing permanent global peace—the Second World War started a mere 20 years after the signing of the major treaties in Paris in 1919. As Macmillan demonstrates, that goal was clearly unachievable: too many peoples had too many real or imagined grievances or scores to settle.

But some valuable lessons were learned from the conference and its aftermath. One was the need for a world organization more broadly based and with more teeth and support than the League of Nations—the United Nations. Another was that more international trade, more economic cooperation and integration and more prosperity give nations more of a stake in peaceful relations. The best example of this is the European Union and its predecessors, established for the express purpose of putting an end to—and may well have succeeded in ending—the theretofore endless conflicts in Europe.

—Peter Rowntree

NEW LIBRARY TRUSTEE

The Board of Selectmen and the two incumbent trustees of the Library have voted to appoint Kathie Ness of Ashley Falls as Library Trustee to serve the remaining term of Peter Rowntree, who resigned because of differences of opinion on policy and other matters.

Kathie is extremely well qualified. She has spent around 30 years in the book world, as managing editor at a publishing house and, since she moved to the Berkshires, as a freelance editor. She applied for the position, she said, because “I have been a long-time user and lover of libraries, going back to elementary school, where the librarian, Mrs. Summers, introduced me to the wonders available there.” Kathie feels that the Library is playing a more and more important role in the town.

Kathie’s term on the Library Board runs until next May. —Peter Rowntree

STAFF COMINGS AND GOINGS

Lisa Scibelli and Kelly Whalen arrived a few months ago as part-time library technicians. We regret to report that Kelly has resigned to become a full-time assistant librarian at the Kent School. She loved working at the Library and is sorry to leave, but the new position comes with higher pay and benefits (employees at the Library who work less than 20 hours a week receive no benefits). Kelly plans to help out at the Bushnell-Sage Library if needed and the demands of her new job permit. She is pleased that she will be able to maintain a connection.

Library Director Nancy Hahn notes that both Lisa and Kelly have made a valuable contribution to the Library and

Book talk. Novelist John Sedgwick will discuss his family memoir *In My Blood*, which recounts his family’s history, entwined with fame and madness, and his own struggles with depression. The Boston Brahmin family includes Theodore Sedgwick, the 1700s Stockbridge lawyer who represented Mum Bett in her suit against Col. John Ashley, as well as renowned 1800s novelist Catherine Sedgwick, Andy Warhol protégé Edie Sedgwick and popular actress and Sharon, CT, resident Kyra Sedgwick. Presented in collaboration with the Sheffield Historical Society. Sept. 15 at 2pm.

Local Authors Day. The fifth celebration of regional authors will be on Sat., Nov. 3. Watch for more details as the date nears.

Book talk. Author Ruth Bass discusses her young-adult novel, *Sarah’s Daughter*, which recounts the story of Rose, a child thrust into the demanding adult life of a 19th century New England homestead. Presented in collaboration with the Sheffield Historical Society. Nov. 10 at 2pm.

Kelly will be missed. “It’s a real shame that we cannot offer well-qualified part-time employees like these a more competitive wage and benefit package.”

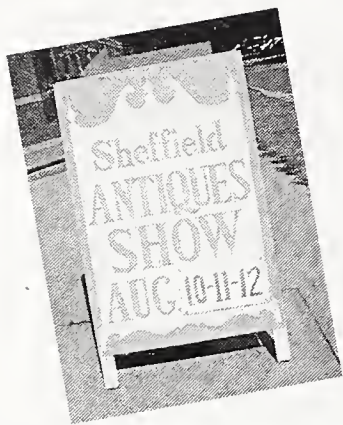
Lisa, who has both a BA in English and a law degree, is delighted to be here. She has spent lots of time in libraries, likes the atmosphere at the Bushnell-Sage Library and loves working with patrons. Her 13-year-old daughter, Nina, helps her mother out when she can. At Nina’s suggestion, the library has acquired a number of graphic novels. Nancy says they were a great idea. “They’ve proved very popular with our teenage patrons. We plan to build up the collection over time.” —Peter Rowntree

SAVE THE DATE!

Join Russ Cohen in looking for wild edibles at the Sheffield Land Trust fall property walk. **September 23**, 1-4, at Moon on the Pond Farm on Barnum St. Call the Land Trust at 229-0234 for reservations and more information.

LOTS OF TREASURES AT THE OLD PARISH ANTIQUES SHOW

Old Parish Church put on its 59th annual summer antiques show in mid-August. Twenty-five exhibitors from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island showed their wares in the Mt. Everett High School gym (below). Lunch was also available. Julie Hannum and Mary Philbrick were among the servers (upper right). Below right: Bob Dean and Turt Turton sell tickets and greet attendees.



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NEW APPOINTMENTS POLICY FOR TOWN

At their Aug. 20 meeting, the Selectmen approved a new policy on their appointments to town committees and boards.

The new policy provides that terms of office for appointed officials (other than interim appointments to fill positions that become vacant in mid-term) will begin and end on the first and last day of a fiscal year, so that all terms will start on July 1 and end on June 30. On or before April 1 of each year, the Town Administrator will notify the Board of Selectmen of the positions to be filled as of the following July 1. Open positions will be announced in the press, on the town bulletin board and on the town website. Applications are to be made no later than May 15. Incumbents seeking to be reappointed must file an application in order to be considered.

The new policy is a welcome development for Sheffield citizens who have been calling for a more open and consistent approach in how the town makes its appointments.

Other suggestions made by townspeople were not adopted because the Board of Selectmen felt that they would be unduly restrictive. These included requirements that applicants for appointment be residents of the town and must anticipate being able to attend most meetings of the relevant committee or board and that potential conflicts of interest be disclosed and considered. Other rejected points were that the policy should be made applicable to appointments to the town Finance Committee (which are made by the town Moderator but must be approved by the Board of Selectmen) and that the public be given an opportunity to question and comment on applicants.

—Peter Rowntree

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at www.sheffieldma.gov

SENIOR CENTER/COUNCIL ON AGING

New Council members. The nine-member Council on Aging, which advises the Senior Center and its director on programs, activities and informational services for seniors in Sheffield, has reached full strength after the Board of Selectmen appointed four new members: Joan Brooks, Dick Magenis, Dawn Massini and Carol Sica. They join council members Natalie Funk, Lovina Gulotta, Anne Hyatt, Doris Traub and Peter Traub. We're looking forward to innovative contributions from them as we plan senior activities for the 2007-2008 year.

Sheffield has 835 residents over the age of 60, or more than 25 percent of its full-time population. The budget for the Council in the current town budget is \$48,750, which is \$1.12 per senior per week. Much of that amount goes to help family members care for aging relatives, which makes the community's in-kind contributions and volunteer efforts vital to the success of Senior Center programs. The Council and the center director welcome ideas and interest from everyone, regardless of age. All interested persons are welcome at the monthly meetings of the Council on Aging.

Senior Center building committee has new charge. The Board of Selectmen has appointed an 11-member committee with Janet Stanton as its chair to continue working on the design and finding funding sources for a new physical plant to serve as center for Sheffield's seniors. With input from the Council on Aging, Reinhardt Associates, the chosen architectural firm, and town groups and individuals, the dream of a new Senior Center is coming closer to a reality.

Summer draws to a close. Elder Services of Berkshire County, S.H.I.N.E. (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders) and other organizations continued to provide help and guidance to elders and their families through our Council on Aging/Senior Center office in Dewey Hall throughout the summer. With the main hall space being occupied by the

traditional July and August Housatonic Valley Art League shows, the senior exercise class moved over to the air-conditioned second floor of the Sheffield Town Hall. It was a nice offer by the town for a cool spot!

Lawn Chair Movie Tuesday continued in the director's office, and we set up an outdoor "café" on Mondays and Fridays underneath Dewey Hall's entryway porte cochere, providing a space for socializing, coffee sipping and general "eyeing the neighborhood," as Sheffield folks stopped in on their way

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Chapter 61A and 61B annual application deadline. Applications are due on or before Oct. 1. Sorry, no exceptions. If you have questions, call the Assessor's Office at 229-7001.

to the bank and the post office.

A grand picnic was held in July at the Town Park, where seniors from Sheffield, Egremont, Alford and Great Barrington enjoyed wonderful weather, sang, won prizes and, of course, ate too much! Another highlight was the August trip to Ventford Hall in Lenox for a look at the "Little Ladies of Fashion" exhibit and a tour of that historic Berkshire summer cottage, capped off by a leisurely lunch in the comfortable wicker furniture on the sprawling back porch. Good times had by all!

Upcoming events. The fall looks to be a busy time with the Director and the Council on Aging planning a variety of social events as well as informative talks, ballroom dancing, computer classes, exercise and movies at the Senior Center. Be sure to consult the Senior Bulletin Board every Monday in the *Berkshire Eagle*, as well as the monthly Sheffield Senior Crier for updates. Call the office at 229-7022 for times and agendas of the monthly Council of Aging meetings.

—John-Arthur Miller, Director

FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

6/18—Interim Town Administrator Joe Kellogg advised the Board of a letter received from a local family offering a substantial donation to the Town Hall parking lot project in exchange for the naming rights of the lot. Discussion ensued concerning putting the naming rights out to bid. The issue was eventually tabled until the next meeting. The Board approved the suggestion by the Ad Hoc Parking Lot Committee that a dedication ceremony for the parking lot be held during Sheffield in Celebration on Sept. 8. Volunteers will work on the parking lot on June 23 and 30.

The Board received a letter from Scudder Graybeal about the intersection of Miller, Cook, and Bow Wow roads. The highway and police departments will be contacted regarding the intersection.

Town Hall custodian Larry O'Brien submitted his resignation. Peter Rowntree submitted his resignation from the Board of Library Trustees. *[Kathy Ness was appointed to fill out the term; see story on page 15.]*

An advertisement will be announced for residents interested in serving on the Senior Center Building Committee. Paul O'Brien has requested appointment to the committee.

The Board voted to allow Town Administrator Kellogg to sign a contract with Ray's Auto Parts for transportation and disposal of metals from the Transfer Station. They granted Barstone LLC and Four Corners LLC an extension on their agreement for the purchase of a lot in the business park. *[See related Planning Board item, page 20.]*

Violet Cronk of 348 Polikoff Rd. submitted an application for an antiques license.

Hans Heuberger of Great Barrington submitted an application for a permit for a sign already in place in front of The Stone Store for The 5 Friends Art Show. Discussion ensued regarding signs being put up before approval is granted. A letter will be sent to the Sheffield Historical Society about procedures for sign approvals.

On June 21, a meeting will be held of representatives from all five towns in the regional school district in the Egremont

Town Hall to discuss the school budget.

David Steindler, chairman of the Finance Committee, clarified that there was never a vote taken at a Finance Committee meeting to recommend that the Selectmen not appoint members to the School Committee.

As requested by the citizen's petition presented at the June 4 meeting, the Selectmen will hold a working meeting to set protocol for the town's appointment process. Surrounding towns will be contacted regarding their policies for making appointments. Town Administrator Kellogg will propose some July dates for the working meeting.

Vito Valentini asked Selectman Jim Collingwood if he had written responses to the questions that Valentini gave him at the June 4 meeting. Collingwood responded that he would be happy to meet with Valentini to discuss the questions.

Peter Rowntree stated that having the agenda posted on the Town website is a great thing and he hopes it continues. Town Administrator Kellogg stated that the agenda would be posted on Fridays. Discussion ensued on posting the agenda on the outside board and on the board in front of Dewey Hall, and the Board decided to post the agenda on the website and inside and outside Town Hall.

7/2—Chairman Julie Hannum stated that the Town Administrator search is moving forward. She thanked all the volunteers that worked on the Town Hall Parking Lot the past weekend. Town Administrator Kellogg informed the board that a large rock/artifact that was unearthed in the parking lot had been taken and asked that it be returned with no questions asked.

The Board appointed Edward Pickert as a light truck driver for the highway department. It decided that the yield sign at the end of Bear's Den Rd. will be replaced with a stop sign.

Town Administrator Kellogg explained that in the past Transfer Station fees had been subsidized with the surplus, but there are not funds to provide the subsidy this year. As a result, the 2008

transfer station fees were set with the standard residential rate at \$104.

John-Arthur Miller will forward names of residents interested in serving on the Council on Aging to the Selectmen's office.

7/3—A special working meeting was held at 10am to discuss the Municipal Partnership Act and the town's appointment process.

Town Administrator Kellogg explained each section of the act. *[As described on www.devalpatrick.com, "The provisions of Governor Patrick's Municipal Partnership Act represent opportunities for State government and municipalities to cooperate in order to address service delivery and overreliance on the property tax."] The interests of Sheffield were identified as the following: local meals tax, increase in local authority, removal of utility tax exemptions, assessor abatement allowances and group insurance commission. He distributed a proposed process for making appointments. Discussion ensued regarding term expiration, the swear-in procedure and resignations.*

Discussion about the appointment process covered unifying term lengths with the fiscal year, creating a master list of all appointments, and other items.

In other business, Chairman Hannum said she would contact the family offering a substantial donation to the parking lot project about alternatives to acquiring naming rights.

Kellogg notified the board that he spoke with Berkshire Housing about coordinating grant-writing efforts with the town for the Senior Center.

Selectman David Macy asked Kellogg to create a form of communication that will inform the Selectmen of the daily business within his office.

The condition of the front of Town Hall was discussed. Town Clerk Felecie Joyce offered to do some planting if materials could be purchased.

Discussion ensued on the bulletin board in front of Town Hall. Dale Smith will be contacted to change the sliding glass doors.

7/16—The Board received a letter from the Department of Education addressed to Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent of Southern Berkshire Regional School District, that authorized the District to spend \$1,197,589 each month until a budget is adopted or Dec. 1, 2007, whichever comes first.

The Board gave permission to Salisbury Bank to put up a temporary bear statue outside their branch on Main St. It granted a curb cut for 828 Salisbury Rd.; the police and highway departments had already approved it.

David Smith, Jr., and John Gilligan were present from the Kiwanis to discuss the ladder sign at the intersection of Route 7 and Berkshire School Rd. The Kiwanis would like to repair the sign and landscaping on the green, and they requested a site visit with the Selectmen at the intersection to take place on Aug. 6.

Chairman Hannum reported she has discussed the request from the Bartholomew family to name the town parking lot with the family. Discussion ensued on the space being more than a parking lot and how to proceed with naming rights. Town Administrator Kellogg will research the entire cost of the parking lot.

Letters were sent to Representative Smitty Pignatelli and Senator Andrew Downing that outline Sheffield's interests in the Municipal Partnership Act.

The Autism Treatment Center of America applied for a sign permit for a sign advertising its annual fundraiser. The size of a sign exceeds the town's size limit; discussion will continue when more information is received about the sign. The Board approved a permit for a sign for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Drama Department.

Administrator Kellogg read his proposed appointments policy. Discussion ensued on the appointment process, the appointment of School Committee members, swearing in of public officials, the availability of the names of those requesting appointment and the process for public comment on the appointments. Adoption of the policy will be placed on hold until all three Selectmen are present (Jim Collingwood was absent). *[See story on page 17 for more of the process that was eventually approved.]*

A letter of resignation was received from Janet Stanton as a member of the School Committee. The vacancy will be posted and the reappointment made Aug. 20. *[Dek Til-*

lett was reappointed to fill this seat.]

Katherine Ness and David Pottle have sent letters of interest for the Library Trustee vacancy. The Selectmen will meet with the Library Trustees to make the appointment. *[Ness was eventually appointed.]*

John-Arthur Miller, the Senior Center Director, will contact those that have expressed an interest in serving on the Council on Aging and request that they submit something in writing.

Peter Traub inquired about progress made by Senior Center Building Committee in writing grant applications. Administrator Kellogg has been in contact with Berkshire Housing Development, which has expressed an interest in working with the Town on these applications.

Rene Wood discussed the need to appoint a Housing Committee. Discussion ensued on the Master Plan's Implementation Advisory Committee and the Housing Committee.

7/19—A special working meeting will be held to discuss the search for a new Town Administrator. The MMA Consulting Group will be asked for assistance with developing and placing an advertisement, but not with the interviewing process. Funding for the position was discussed.

In other business, Vonda Alden was appointed building custodian for the

Town Hall and Police Department. The board approved a curb cut for Chris and Greig Seidor at Lot #1 on Hickey Hill Rd.

Information for a survey conducted by Berkshire Economic Development Corporation was requested. Town Clerk

Felecie Joyce will review warrants for the last 10 years to compile a list of capital purchases.

7/24—Katherine Ness was appointed as Library Trustee to fill out a term to expire in May 2008. The Board noted her appointment was especially appropriate because of her previous

volunteer work at the library.

Chairman Hannum announced that Sheffield, along with the other towns in the school district, is eligible to apply for so-called pothole funding relief from the state. The Board will proceed with the application process. *[Sheffield did receive such a grant; see page 20.]*

The Board granted permission for a marriage to be held at the Covered Bridge on Aug. 18 or 25.

The Library Trustees discussed improvements and maintenance repairs to be made at the library. It was announced that the Friends of the Library would fund repairs to the gazebo. Discussion also ensued on the wireless Internet access at the library.

TOWN PHONE NUMBERS

Assessor	229-7001
Building Inspector	229-7006
Fire Dept.	
non-emergency	229-7033
Library	229-7004
Police Dept.	
non-emergency	229-8522
School District	229-8778
Senior Center	229-7022
Town Clerk	229-8752
Tax Collector	229-7008
Transfer Station	229-7019

FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Dog licenses. Licenses are renewable annually in the spring. If your dog is six months of age or older, or you live in Sheffield at least 30 days of the year, licensing is required. After May 1, a delinquent fee of \$25 per dog will be imposed in addition to the license fee. (This does not apply to new licenses). If your dog is spayed or neutered, the fee is \$4. If your dog is intact, the fee is \$10. All applications require proof of rabies vaccination. You can obtain a license in person or by mail. Come to Town Hall or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, with a check payable to the Town of Sheffield, to Town Clerk, PO Box 175, Sheffield, MA 01257.

Voter registration. Town Hall is open every weekday for voter registration. There is a full slate of elections for 2008. If you are not registered or if you are uncertain of your voting status, please call or stop by for assistance.

Hunting and fishing licenses. This year's hunting/sporting and fishing/trapping licenses and stamps are available. Note that there are changes for the 2007 season. When purchasing a license for yourself or someone else, a prior year's license or a hunter's safety certificate must be presented. Firearm identification cards are no longer acceptable. Without proper documentation, we can't issue a license.

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

During July and August, the Planning Board completed hearings on the special permit application of Gregory Small and Claire Anacreon, under the Alternative Lot Dimensions section, applied to create a building lot for property in Sheffield and New Marlborough, with access off Alum Hill Rd. in New Marlborough. Board deliberations on this application will begin shortly. The board also completed hearings and approved by a 5-0 vote two special permit applications: Gail Ullman and Florence Liberman for a boarding house at 84 Maple Ave. and Michael and Cynthia Dutton of Limey's Restaurant, 650 North Main St., for an accessory single-family dwelling above the restaurant.

The board completed its hearing on a special permit application from Four Corners, LLC, which sought a two-year extension on the special permit granted in August 2005 for light manufacturing and machining of wood, plastic and metal product at lot 4 in the Sheffield Business

Park. (See the related story on page 22.) That public hearing was held on Aug. 23. The board will begin its deliberations in September.

The board also accepted two new special permit applications. Berkshire Fence of 560 South Main St. applied for four uses: major commercial development, accessory single-family dwelling unit in a commercial district, kennel and sign. The public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 13 at 8pm. David and Barbara West applied to create a building lot from property on Silver St. under the alternative lot dimensions section of the by-laws. That hearing is also scheduled for Sept. 13, at 9pm.

The board endorsed two Form A (Approval Not Required for development) applications. Cooper Hill Farm Nominee (Robert Boyett, Trustee) applied to divide a lot on the eastern side of Cooper Hill Rd. into two lots of three and six acres. The same entity also applied to divide a three-acre lot from a large lot on the western side of Silver St.

Three special board meetings were

Transfer Station Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays: 1pm-4pm

Saturdays: 8am-4pm

Sundays: 8:30am-2pm

posted and scheduled. One was a site visit to 84 Maple Ave. to review the parking plan presented with the special permit application of Gail Ullman and Florence Liberman. The other two were telephone conference calls with legal staff to assist board members in understanding issues raised by the Berkshire Fence special permit application and resolving a question regarding provisions of the alternative lot dimensions by-law.

The board continued its review and prioritization of goals for the current fiscal year and possible activities for the Zoning By-Law Review Committee, which will begin meeting again in September. A subcommittee of the board will review and make recommendations regarding updating its Rules and Regulations and the forms used in conducting board business. Form A (Approval Not Required) application guidelines were finalized and are now available from the

Sheffield Historical Society



PRESERVING SHEFFIELD'S PAST TODAY FOR ITS FUTURE TOMORROW

JOIN AND BE PART OF THE EXCITEMENT

The 1774 Dan Raymond House hours:
Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mark Dewey Research Center open Monday and
Friday afternoons, 1:30-4pm,
and by appointment
Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

Old Stone Store hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
and Sunday, 11a.m. to 3p.m.
(Closed March)

159 Main Street, P.O. Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257
Phone: 413-229-2694, Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

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ANN MORELLI SMITH
SALES ASSOCIATE

Town Clerk or the town's web site. These guidelines are designed to help people through the Form A process.

The new board is working well together. Margaret Martin and David Smith, the two newest members, have come on board under a very heavy workload, just as Tony Gulotta and Chris Tomich did a year ago. Rhonda LaBombard, working with the chair, has begun assuming many of the chair's clerical duties.

The board learned that Sheffield was successful in its application for a grant through a state economic development initiative that will allow Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to provide assistance. Since the application included many options, the focus of the grant will

FREE GUIDES ON RECYCLING

The Center for Ecological Technology has published two free guides on ways to reduce waste and save money.

One is a step-by-step guide for communities and organizations looking to set up recycling at their next event, covering topics such as where to place recycling receptacles and what to do with leftover food.

The other offers advice to individu-

als and businesses looking to reduce the amount of waste they generate, with guidance on how to reuse and repurpose everything from books, clothes and couches to kitchen countertops.

be finalized shortly. The board worked with the Board of Selectmen and Interim Town Manager Joe Kellogg on this application.

Finally, the board again wishes to thank town voters for adopting the zoning by-law provision that allows a board member to miss a single session of a special permit hearing and, after certifying in writing that an audio tape of the session has been listened to and all evidence reviewed, participate in subsequent hearings and deliberations. The provision has let the Planning Board respond in a more timely way to permit applicants this summer.

—Rene Wood, Chair

BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

Sheffield households can dispose of bulky waste at the town transfer station on Fri., Oct. 19, 2-4pm, Sat., Oct. 20, 8am-4pm, and Sun., Oct. 21, 8:30am-noon.

Items accepted are those too large for disposal in the compactor, such as furniture, mattresses and rugs. Not accepted are demolition debris (sheet rock, fiberglass, etc.), propane tanks, wood, car batteries, tires, recyclable materials or toxic materials such as pesticides, oil, etc.

Cathode-ray tubes, TVs and computer monitors will not be taken—these are accepted at the recycling area. Nor will Freon-containing appliances such as refrigerators or air conditioners. These are also accepted at the recycling area if a Freon-removal certificate is supplied.

Each household is allowed to dispose of one pickup-truck-sized load. To participate, a free coupon must be obtained at the Sheffield Tax Collector's office or by mail (send a stamped self-addressed envelope with your license plate number, to the Treasurer/Collector's Office, P.O. box 367, Sheffield, MA 01257). Questions? Call David Steindler at 229-2628 or Town Hall at 229-2335.

The New Marlborough Village Association presents

4 SATURDAYS OF GREAT ENTERTAINMENT
CHAMBER MUSIC • JAZZ • THEATER • FILM • AUTHORS

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music
and
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Jonathan Epstein

Mozart

Manhattan String Quartet

Richard Vitale

Mitchel Levitas

Cathleen Schine

Amity Slaes

Thomas Fleming

SEPT 8, 4:30 PM • ALL-MOZART CONCERT WITH NARRATION Musicians and award-winning actor Jonathan Epstein (*BTF*) join forces in a concert with a reading of letters by Mozart and his family that reveal the ambitions of father and son in the musical world of 18th century Europe. Ronald Gorevic, violin; Kaori Washiyama, viola; Lucy Bardo, cello; Judith Gordon, piano; Karen Lubeck, soprano.

SEPT 15, 4:30 PM • MANHATTAN STRING QUARTET Eric Lewis, violin; Calvin Wiersma, violin; John Dexter, viola; Chris Finckel, cello

"...Chamber music performance doesn't come much better than this."
—The New York Times

SEPT 29, 4:30 PM • A LATE AFTERNOON OF GREAT JAZZ, FINE WINES AND FOOD

Andrew Serman, sax & Mick Rossi, piano (Philip Glass Ensemble); Richard Vitale, trumpet; Mary Ann McSweeney, bass. Concert followed by a wine tasting (Domaney's Fine Wines) and food tasting (Old Inn On The Green, "Best in the Berkshires" —Zagat).

OCT 6, 4:30 PM • AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS

Hosted by Mitchel Levitas of The New York Times. Cathleen Schine, Amity Shlaes, and Thomas Fleming, three nationally prominent authors, will discuss their recently published work, and answer questions from the audience.

At the Meeting House on the village green, Route 57 in the center of New Marlborough, MA

TICKETS: www.newmarlborough.org • (413) 229-2785

Receptions with the artists follow in the Meeting House Gallery

GREAT BARRINGTON'S MARKETPLACE COMING TO SHEFFIELD

The Marketplace of the Berkshires, a prepared food and catering company, is about to move into the space that formerly housed the Barrington Stage. "We'll have about six or seven thousand square feet, which is plenty for us," says David Renner, chef and co-founder of the business. Renner and company are moving to Sheffield from a too-big 21,000-square-foot space on Crissey Rd. in Great Barrington.

In their new space, The Marketplace's kitchens will continue to whip up their signature pastries, prepared foods and artisanal breads. The business has supplied all the prepared foods for Guido's in Great Barrington for the past 12 years, in addition to catering weddings and parties at Berkshires venues such as the Norman Rockwell Museum and Chesterwood and at locations as far away as the Hamptons

and the outer islands off the Cape. The Marketplace employs about 35 people, not counting catering personnel, who are hired on as as-needed basis.

Renner and his business partner and co-founder, Kevin Schmitz, have dozens of years experience between them in the fine-dining trade. Both worked as chefs in New York City before moving with their families to the Berkshires. (Renner has three children, Schmitz has two.) Renner worked for Daniel Boulud at his Restaurant Daniel and had the opportunity to be sent to two-and-three-star restaurants in Europe to expand his expertise. Schmitz was executive sous chef for Shearson Lehman. The two met when Renner went to work for Schmitz at the White Hart in Salisbury, CT, where they worked side-by-side until starting The Marketplace.

Renner and Schmitz are excited about their new space, which they are having to design and renovate during high season for a catering business in the Berkshires. The space will also house Berkshire Bark, a newer business started by Renner and another partner. With names like Mocha Buzz, White Lightning, Midnight Harvest, and Tropical Heat, Berkshire Bark's chocolate varieties feature Belgian chocolate, whole roasted nuts, citrus zest, and dried fruits.

And as if all this were not enough, Renner and Schmitz are planning to open a small café in their new space, too. "We're not sure what it will be yet," says Renner, "so I can't talk about it much."

Whatever it ends up being, Sheffield residents will be anticipating its debut with eager taste buds. —Ellen Weiss

UPDATE ON BUSINESSES IN THE SHEFFIELD BUSINESS PARK

The five lots in the 20-some acre Sheffield Business Park were sold to five businesses in 2005. The land, once a working farm, was acquired by the town of Sheffield in 1994. The companies are erecting their own buildings and putting in their own wells and septic.

Three of the businesses in the Park are now up and running:

Dedotech USA. This company provides "the most innovative lighting systems for motion picture, television, still photography, architectural lighting, and fine art display," as the company's website says. "We moved into the park in May of 2006. We'd been in New Jersey," says Paul Tepper, the owner. "We built a larger space than we needed, so we'll have space to grow into it." How is it doing business out of the Business Park? "It's different up here than in New Jersey," he says with a laugh. "You can't just run out for something you need—although we are very happy to see the Staples opening up. And FedEx doesn't deliver in the morning. But it's made up for by the beautiful surroundings."

McElroy Scenic Services. "We're loving the Park. It's fantastic. An absolutely beautiful spot," says Sean McElroy. His company makes museum displays and scenery for commercials and theater.

Euro Precision. Les Fleming's business makes high-tech tools for fabricating a variety of products in a variety of materials. His CNC, or computer numerically controlled, machines can be programmed to craft tools and spare parts for the plastics, steel, paper, and plasma-coating industries, among others. Euro Precision has contributed to the making of carbon fiber parts for Blackhawk helicopters, racecars and cutting-edge windmill technology. His company, formerly in Lakeville, CT, is still in the process of moving in all its machinery, while trying at the same time to fulfill orders for customers who need their items. "We were in a residential area in Lakeville," he says, "so we were restricted in terms of what we could do, and at what hours. It made it difficult to grow the business. Here we have a beautiful site that was easy to build on, and the town was very cooperative in enabling us to do what we've done. It's been a very good experience."

The other two companies are not yet operating from the Business Park:

Four Corners is a company that uses the same kind of computer-controlled machines to craft non-metal parts like musical instruments, large entry doors and office furniture for a New York City designer. "We were the first to be ap-

proved to buy in the Business Park and will probably be the last to build," says David Brigham, who owns the company with his wife, Maggie. "Because of some initial hold-ups, we ended up having to re-up on our lease in Millerton. But we're going to be pouring concrete in the fall. The office should be done next year, and the final building will be completed by 2010, though we're hoping for sooner." There's good reason for Brigham to hope so: he lives in New Marlborough, and the commute will be closer for 75 percent of his employees as well.

City Moves, a Sheffield moving company that specializes in moving household and commercial items between the Berkshires and the New York City area, has broken ground for its new building in the Business Park.

The Sheffield Business Park was acquired by the town of Sheffield when it exercised its right of first refusal under the Chapter 61A program, and bought the property for \$165,000. The parcel had been planned for residential development, which would have cost the town more in services than it received in taxes. The town subsequently got a grant of \$286,000 from the state to build the roads and put in electrical service.

—Ellen Weiss

LAND TRUST ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The board of directors of the Sheffield Land Trust recently elected Don Reinauer, Peter Cherneff, Robert Thomas and Richard Kimball as new members. The board, which sets policy and direction for the nonprofit organization, now has 18 members, drawn from many quarters of the Sheffield community.

Don Reinauer is a pediatric physician assistant and associate partner at the MACONY Pediatric Group in Great Barrington. He also holds an appointment at Stony Brook University as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Five years ago, Don and his wife, Judith, bought the house formerly owned by Land Trust icons Roger and Virginia Drury on Barnum St. Then, "with the lure of the Berkshires just too great," they sold their house in Long Island and now call the Berkshires home.

"It's an honor to have been asked to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Land Trust," Don says. With board experience for two other organizations over nine years, he is looking forward to learning how things are done at the Land Trust and sharing his experience in policy development and fund raising. He also serves on the nonprofit's Funding and Financial Management Committee.

Peter R. Cherneff is an attorney, specializing in real estate development, land planning, zoning and financing and is a partner of Watkins and Cherneff, of White Plains. He currently serves on the boards of several nonprofits, including Footsteps, which provides support to those raised in an ultraorthodox religious environment who are seeking to enter the world, Whitby School, one of the first Montessori schools in the U.S., the Mental Health Association of Westchester, and S.H.O.R.E. (Sheltering the Homeless is our Responsibility). He also serves on Sheffield's master plan Implementation Advisory and Housing committees.

Peter has been a part-time resident of the Berkshires since 1961, and he and his wife, Hester Velmans, have been full-time residents of Sheffield since 2005. Peter and Hester provided their home on Hewins St. for two important Land Trust events: a neighborhood gathering called to explore land preservation along the Housatonic

River Corridor, and the 2007 reception for conservationists and major donors to the Land Trust.

Peter agreed to become a Board member because he believes strongly in the Land Trust's mission to protect Sheffield's natural, scenic, agricultural and rural character. He also believes the Land Trust movement, by skillfully combining owners, buyers, contributors, lenders, grant-providers, town officials and state-sponsored opportunities such as agricultural preservation restrictions has struck upon a very effective way of accomplishing its preservation objectives.

Robert Thomas is an attorney who recently stepped down as managing partner of Sullivan and Cromwell's Beijing office. He became a partner of the firm in 1975. His practice has focused primarily on corporate and project finance. With wide-ranging experience in the securities law field, both international and domestic, Bob has represented issuers, investment banks and merchant banks, as well as other participants, in securities transactions.

Bob and his wife, Becky, have been weekend residents of Sheffield since 1975, with a home on Bow Wow Rd. They and three other couples joined together as the Sheffield Land Group to preserve 53 acres near the junction of Giberson and Bow Wow roads.

Bob says he is very much looking forward to joining the board. "I think it is one of the most important organizations in the community," he says.

Richard Kimball retired in 2002 after 15 years as chief executive officer of the Teagle Foundation, a private foundation with a particular focus on higher education. Prior to that he was an executive with the Exxon Corporation. For a number of years, he served as a director of the Council of Independent Colleges in Washington, DC, and in 2001 received its Allen P. Splete Award for Outstanding Service to American higher education. He has been awarded many honorary degrees, including one from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, MT, of which he is currently a trustee.

Dick and his wife, Athena, live year-round in an expanded mid-19th century farm house overlooking Mt. Everett on

Silver St. They have two children.

Dick has been active on the Trust's Funding and Financial Management Committee. He hopes, by his involvement with the Trust, to help preserve Sheffield's unique landscape. Dick's family has long experience with land preservation.

Allison Lasso and Myron Sheinberg have resigned from the board. Allison will remain active on the Land Protection Committee. Myron has served on the Funding and Financial Management Committee.

"We will miss them both," said John Wightman, the Land Trust's president. "Allison was one of our more faithful and thoughtful members. She rarely missed a meeting. Myron will be particularly missed on our Funding and Financial Management Committee, where he was one of our most skillful fund raisers."

-- John Wightman

EDIBLE PLANT WALK

Join naturalist and expert forager Russ Cohen in looking for wild edibles (including mushrooms) at Moon In the Pond Farm on Barnum St., Sept. 23, 1-4pm. Call the Sheffield Land Trust at 229-0234 to reserve a place and for more information.

SCOUT NEWS

On Oct. 6, Boy Scout Troop 28 will be holding its annual Roast Beef Dinner at the Sheffield American Legion Hall from 5-7pm. Much of the money raised by this event will be used for a 2008 canoe trip in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. It will be a new adventure for us—we have canoed in the Adirondacks or on Maine's Sacco River for the last several years.

For Sheffield in Celebration's street fair on Sept. 8, the Troop will be hosting the Council Climbing Wall again. Hopefully we will have better weather than last year and more people will be able to climb.

As always, the members of the Troop appreciate your support.

—George Olen

OLD MILL TOUR WILL BENEFIT SHEFFIELD LAND TRUST

A benefit for the Sheffield Land Trust will take place at the reconstructed 1737 Old Red Mill in Ashley Falls on Sat., Oct. 20. The event will feature guided tours of the historic mill, highlighted in the last issue of the *Sheffield Times*. The mill has been converted into a beautiful new residence by Howard Chezar, a Great Barrington builder.

The event will include walking tours of the renovated mill building, the reconstructed dam and the newly landscaped property, which is on Route 7A, across from the village green. Some rooms in the mill will be shown decorated by local antiques dealers. A video documentary about the building's history and reconstruction will be on view, and there will be boat rides on the newly dug-out millpond.

Seasonal refreshments will be served. Raffle prizes include several unique offerings, such as a "decorate in a day" service donated by a professional interior decorator, a large custom floral arrangement and a garden consultation. Rain date is Sun., Oct. 21. Tours will take place at 10am, 12 noon and 2pm. Tickets will be sold by time slot, and they're available in Sheffield stores or by calling the Sheffield Land Trust office at 229-0234.

—Pat Elsbach

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

The Old Stone Store gallery features "Fire and Light," an exhibit of American hearth cooking and home lighting devices to 1860, September 8-October 30.

Other Historical Society events will include:

Book talk. Novelist John Sedgwick will discuss his family memoir *In My Blood*. Presented in collaboration with the Bushnell-Sage Library. (See page 15 for more details.) Sat., Sept. 15.

Sheffield tombstone art and cemetery tour. This cemetery talk will focus on the work of artist Karin Sprague and will be followed by the annual walk led by local historian Jim Miller. Sat., Oct. 13.

The Dan Raymond House is open for tours from May-October, Tuesday-Thursday, 11am-4pm, or by appointment. The Stone Store is open on weekends (Saturday, 10am-2pm; Sunday, 11am-3pm), or by appointment. The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Monday and Friday, 1:30pm-4 pm. To make an appointment, call 229-3682. The Society office is open Tuesday-Thursday, 11am-4pm. For more information, contact the Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main Street, PO Box 747, Sheffield, MA 0125, 229-2694, or e-mail shs@sheffieldhistory.org. Visit us on the web at www.sheffieldhistory.org

Farmers' Market of Sheffield

Fridays
3:30 to 6:30
center of town

Music! More vendors!

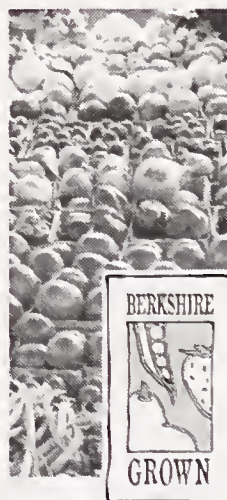
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Bunny • Equinox Farms • Farm
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Adams Farmers' Market

At the Adams Visitor Center parking lot, Hoosac St.
May 23rd through October 24th. Wednesdays 1pm-5pm

Great Barrington Farmers' Market

At the train station in downtown Gt. Barrington, behind
town hall. May 13th through October 27th.
Saturdays 9am-1pm

Farmers' Market at the Nutrition Center

94 West Avenue, Great Barrington
May 30 through October. Wednesdays 4-8pm

Lenox Farmers' Market

55 Pittsfield Rd. (Rt.7), at Aspinwell
May 11th through October 26th.
Fridays 2pm-6pm

Farmers' Market of Otis

In the parking lot of L&M Auto/Papas Health Food & Fuel.
May 12th through October 13th. Saturdays 9am-2pm

North Adams Farmers' Market

In St. Anthony's municipal parking lot, across from Mass
MoCA. July 14th through October 27th.
Saturdays 8am-1pm

Berkshire Area Farmers' Market

In the Berkshire Mall parking lot. May through October.
Wednesdays and Saturdays 8am-2pm.

Farmers' Market of Sheffield

Old Parish Church parking lot, Rt.7, downtown Sheffield.
May 11th through October 12th. Fridays 3.30-6.30pm.

Williamstown Farmers' Market

South end of Spring St. End of May to October.
Saturdays 8am-12pm

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KIWANIS NEWS

Choral Festival another success. Nearly 40 Kiwanis members worked some aspect of the five-week Berkshire Choral Festival during July and August. We maintained a daily cocktail bar for the singers, served Saturday night audiences food and drink from our refreshment trailer, and parked the automobiles in the three designated lots. Another successful season thus concluded.

Flower beds and trees. A major summer project included planting and maintaining the flower beds in the Sheffield village green. The members also voted to contribute to the parking area being renovated near the Town Hall. Kiwanis has purchased a tree and bought a large block for the "Walk of Names." In response to a plea from Tom Ingersoll, the club has agreed to pay \$680 to inject the stately American elm along Route 7 just north of Kellogg Rd. This treatment builds the tree's resistance to Dutch elm disease.

Convention. Nearly a dozen Kiwanians from Sheffield attended the annual New England District Convention, held this year on Aug. 16 to 19 in Warwick, RI. Richard and Patricia Hardisty and Marge Kirchner were our official delegates. In addition to a golf tournament, a dinner-dance cruise, and a tour of the Newport mansions, there was still time for learning and fellowship with members from Bermuda, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Picnic. Instead of a regular Tuesday night dinner meeting at Limey's Restaurant, Kiwanis members and their guests enjoyed a picnic at the Town Park Pavilion on August 21. The menu included steak and chicken, corn, salads, desserts and a variety of drinks. All this was free to the attendees—a way for the club to say "Thanks" for all the hard work during the regular season.

Steak Roast. The annual Kiwanis Steak Roast will take

place as part of Sheffield in Celebration on Sat., Sept. 8. Tickets for a feast of steak, baked potato, corn on the cob, tossed salad and more desserts than you can imagine are on sale for \$20. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be available for kids. A free drink (beer, wine or soda) goes with each meal. Once again, Kiwanis joins forces with the Sheffield Fire Dept., which is still raising dollars for its building fund. The dinner will take place at the firehouse, from 5:30 to 7:30p.m. Music, a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle are among other activities planned. Come join us!

Awards gala. On Sept. 29, Kiwanis holds its annual installation and awards gala. This year we have been generously offered the facilities of Limey's dining and meeting rooms. David Johnson becomes the new president for 2007-2008, with Patricia Hardisty moving to president-elect. David Smith, Jr., will serve as vice president, while Joseph Todd and Richard Goodwin will continue as secretary and treasurer. Several honors are bestowed on members at this event, including the Legion of Honor (for membership years), Master Kiwanian pins and the prestigious Kiwanian of the Year plaque. We honor a Citizen of the Year. Past winners have included Police Chief James McGarry, Richard Kirchner, Ed McCormack, Catherine Miller, and (last year) Joe Wilkinson.

Other coming activities. Our autumn schedule includes the final two months of Litter Patrol along Route 7 and serving at the Breaking Bread Soup Kitchen if a new location becomes available. We have a Family Safety Day and Bicycle Rodeo planned for Great Barrington the end of September. And watch for our annual radiothon at station WSBS on a date in October to be determined. —Richard L. Goodwin

The Sheffield Kiwanis meets Tuesday at 7pm at Limey's Restaurant on Route 7.

BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE EVENTS

Volunteer Work Days

Every Thursday through October, 9am-11:30am. Join friends and neighbors as we pull, clip, lop, and chop to rid the Cobble of some noxious weeds. Better than a morning at the gym. Call for more information. Free to all.

Moonlight Paddle

Wed., Sept. 26, 6-8pm. Enjoy a moonlit paddle with a naturalist/guide and look for beaver, bats and other wildlife. Please pre-register. Canoes and life jackets provided. Members: adult \$24, child (10-12) \$12. Nonmembers: adult \$30, child (10-12) \$15.

Housatonic Paddle

Sundays Sept. 2-30 and Labor Day, Sept. 3, 9-noon; Sundays Oct. 7-28 and Columbus Day, Oct. 8, 9:30-12:30pm. Paddle the winding Housatonic with a naturalist/guide. Look for bald eagles, great blue herons, kingfishers and bank swallows. Bring a hat, sunscreen, water and binoculars. All other equipment is provided. Please pre-register. Members: adult \$24; child (6-12) \$12. Nonmembers: adult \$30; child (6-12) \$15.

Hawk Migration

Saturdays, Oct. 13 and 27, 10am-noon. Experience one of the

wonders of the animal kingdom. We will watch for migrating hawks from atop Hurlburt's Hill. Please pre-register. Members: free. Nonmembers: adult \$5; child \$1.

Owl Prowl

Sat., Oct. 13, 7-9pm. Owls have an amazing ability to hunt swiftly, accurately and silently in the dead of night. Come learn how they do it! We'll listen to the calls of great-horned, barred, saw-whet and screech owls and try to draw them in. With luck, we may catch sight of one. Please pre-register. Members: adult \$4; child free. Nonmembers: adult \$6; child \$2.

Full Moon Hike

Fri., Oct. 26, 7-9pm. Forests and fields look much different in the moonlight. Come explore the sights and sounds of nighttime. Please pre-register. Members/non-members: adult \$5; family \$10.

Bartholomew's Cobble, a 329-acre property of The Trustees of Reservations with five miles of trails, is located on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. The Visitor's Center is open year-round, daily, 9am-4:30pm (closed Sundays and Mondays, Dec. to March). For more information, call 229-8600.

FIRE LOG —Rick Boardman, Chief

June

- 14 Car fire. Alarm time 7:16pm. In service 7:44pm.
- 15 Smoke in building. Alarm time 2:11pm. In service 2:29pm.
- 18 Fire alarm at 50 East Rd. Alarm time 3:15pm. In service 3:39pm.
- 21 Wires down on Lime Kiln Rd. Alarm time 6:15pm. In service 6:37pm.
- 22 Fire alarm at Berkshire School. Alarm time 3:04pm. In service 3:19pm.
- 24 Brush pile on fire. Alarm time 3:11pm. In service 3:49pm.
- 26 Powerlines down at 203 County Rd. Alarm time 7:06pm. In service 8:04pm.
- 27 Mutual aid to Canaan Fire Dept. Alarm time 8:15pm. In service 9:47pm.
- 30 Alarm set off at 161 Main St. Alarm time 11:00pm. In service 11:15pm.

July

- 8 Standby for New Marlborough Fire Dept. Alarm time 12:17am. In service 2:28am.
- 8 Assistance to Lakeville Fire Dept. for injured hiker. Alarm time 4:36pm. In service 8:04am.
- 12 Suspicious package. Alarm time 10:29pm. In service 11:14pm.
- 14 Transformer fire at 1791 County Rd. Alarm time 3:25pm. In service 4:45pm.

- 19 Rescue on the Appalachian Trail. Alarm time 10:26am. In service 3:06pm.
- 22 Rescue. Alarm time 8:38pm. In service 12:54pm.
- 28 Lightning struck main panel. Alarm time 9:48pm. In service 11:00pm.
- 30 Carbon monoxide detector activated. Alarm time 2:50pm. In service 3:25pm.
- 31 Alarm at 689 Main St. Alarm time 2:45pm. In service 3:05pm.

August

- 4 Alarm at 50 East Rd. Alarm time 9:41pm. In service 9:56pm.
- 6 Carbon monoxide detector activated. Alarm time 6:17pm. In service 7:00pm.
- 7 False alarm. Alarm time 1:09pm. In service 1:59pm.
- 8 False alarm at Kolburne School. Alarm time 6:11pm. In service 6:23pm.
- 8 Car accident on Rt. 7. Alarm time 7:16am. In service 8:07am.
- 8 Carbon monoxide detector activated. Alarm time 9:51pm. In service 10:46pm.
- 16 Wires down at 265 Legeyt Rd. Alarm time 4:15pm. In service 5:15pm.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

June

- 8 Bruce Rogol to Dean Paul Kelley, property at 295-297 Clayton Rd., \$350,000.
- 11 Madeleine E. Robins and Daniel J. Caccaco to Deborah A. Reich, property at 1690 Boardman St., \$645,000.
- 15 Patrice C. Dean to Riva S. Rischner and Shanen E. Stout, property at 24 Cactus St., \$253,000.
- 20 Jeffrey S. and Angel S. Rote to Sheffield Land Trust, Inc., property at Sheffield-Egremont Rd., \$750,000.
- 22 Michael W. Martin to Catherine Emberlin and Jason L. King, property at 325 S. Main St., \$298,500.
- 22 Scholz Family Properties, LLC, to Lusha Martin, property at 126 E. Main St., \$195,000.
- 28 Michael F. Vidal to Kimberley A. Cannon, property at 115 Clayton Rd., \$176,000.

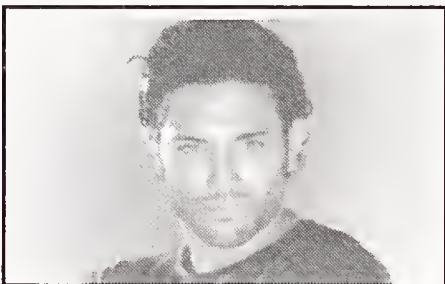
- 29 Edward B. Goodnow to Linda and Allen Rosen, property at 576 Sheffield Plain, \$665,000.

July

- 12 Joan B. Griswold to Peter D. Rawson, property at 1095 Ashley Falls Rd., \$282,500.
- 13 Elaine & Harvey Herman to Martin C. Mitsoff & Brece V. Honeycut, property at 975 S. Undermountain Rd., \$900,000.
- 18 Barry A. & Charlotte L. Davidson to Karin A. Shanley and Mary L. Johnston, property at 245 East Stahl Rd., \$442,500.
- 25 Citifinancial Services, Inc., to Tricia R. Storti and Chris A. Leonard, property at 30 Alder Place, \$165,000.
- 26 Judy Barnett to Martin E. & Constance Jacobs, property at 992 Foley Rd., \$325,000.

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Calendar Page

September

- 3 LABOR DAY
- 8 Sheffield Fair, town green, 3-7pm (p. 9)
- 8 Kiwanis/Hose Co. Steak Roast, Fire House, 5:30-7:30pm (p. 9)
- 8 Concert by the Joint Chiefs, Dewey Hall, 8pm (p. 9)
- 13 ROSH HASHANA
- 15 Book talk by John Sedgwick, Bushnell-Sage Library, 2 pm (p. 15)
- 22 YOM KIPPUR
- 23 Edible Plant Walk, Moon on the Pond Farm, 1-4pm (p. 23)

October

- 6 Christ Church Silent Auction, 10am-4pm (p. 13)
- 6 Annual Boy Scout Roast Beef Dinner, American Legion Hall, 5-7pm (p. 23)
- 8 COLUMBUS DAY
- 13 Historical Society tombstone/cemetery tour (p. 24)
- 15 **Sheffield Times deadline**
- 19 Bulky trash disposal (p. 21)
- 20 Bulky trash disposal (p. 21)
- 20 Land Trust benefit at Ashley Falls Mill (p. 24)
- 21 Bulky trash disposal (p. 21)
- 31 HALLOWEEN

November

- 3 Local Authors' Day, Bushnell-Sage Library (p. 15)
- 10 Book talk by Ruth Bass, Bushnell-Sage Library, 2pm (p. 15)

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Send us your news, stories or photos. Submissions and suggestions can be sent to sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com or P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number – i.e. “1st,” “3rd” indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed.

Mondays:

Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am
Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd
Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd
Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays
Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1st

Tuesdays:

Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
Building Inspector, Town Hall, Tues. 7am-1pm
Senior Center “Lawn Chair Movie,” 11:30am
Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4th
Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm

Wednesdays:

Senior Center Knitting Group, 1pm

Thursdays:

Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
Parent-Child Playgroup, Greenwoods Community Church, 9:30-11:30am
Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th (for July and August)
Building Inspector, Town Hall, Thurs. 3pm-7 pm
* Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd
* Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3rd
Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th

Fridays:

Farmer's Market, Old Parish Parking Lot, 3:30-6:30pm

Saturdays:

Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4th

Sundays:

Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

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Sheffield Fair: Saturday, September 8, 3 to 7pm

On the green in the center of town

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Kiwanis Steak Roast: September 8, 5:30-7:30pm

Great food at the firehouse benefiting the Sheffield Hose Co. Building Fund and the
Kiwanis Scholarship Fund

Concert by the Joint Chiefs: September 8, 8pm

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For Exhibitor or Vendor space call Dave Smith at 229-9956.

Sheffield TIMES

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